

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 AGR-10 ABF-01 SS-15
A-01 /051 W

-----022158Z 043325 /70

R 022115Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3668

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 04611

PASS AGRIC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, CA
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON PESTICIDE USE AND RESIDUES

REF: STATE 114232

1. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: ALL PESTICIDES SOLD, DISTRIBUTED AND USED IN CANADA MUST BE REGISTERED UNDER CANADA'S PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ACT ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANT PRODUCTS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE CANADA. THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE MANUFACTURER AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, USE PATTERNS, RESIDUE TOLERANCES AND LABELLING ARE STRICTLY REVIEWED PRIOR TO PRODUCT REGISTRATION. PESTICIDE LABEL IS FARMERS' FIRST EDUCATIONAL TOOL DEFINING APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. FARMERS HAVE ACCESS TO TRAINED EXTENSION STAFF AT FEDERAL RESEARCH STATIONS. AGRICULTURE CANADA PUBLISHES BOOKLETS, PAMPHLETS ETC. OFFERING PESTICIDE USE INSTRUCTIONS AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF SAFE PESTICIDE USE. THESE ARE READILY AVAILABLE AND FREE OF CHARGE TO FARMERS.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS LEAD IN EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF PESTICIDE USE. PROVINCES HAVE EXTENSION OFFICERS WITH FUNCTION TO CARRY MESSAGE OF SAFE USE, TO ASSIST FARMER IN
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CORRECT CHOICE OF PESTICIDE, TO OFFER APPLICATION INSTRUCTION AND ANALYSIS OF PESTICIDE PROBLEMS.

ONTARIO, ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA APPEAR TO HAVE SOPHISTICATED PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE LICENSING OF PESTICIDE DEALERS AND LICENSING OF APPLICATORS FOR CERTAIN PESTICIDES AND CLASS OF APPLICATOR (E.G. SOME CUSTOM APPLICATORS,

EXTERMINATORS).

ALL PROVINCES, PARTICULARLY ONTARIO, OFFER PUBLISHED MATERIAL ON PESTICIDE USE, SAFETY, ETC. ONE DAY, SHORT COURSES ARE AVAILABLE PERIODICALLY AND OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE AT COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES. WEEKLY FARM TABLOIDS GIVE HEAVY EMPHASIS TO PROPER APPLICATION OF RECOMMENDED PESTICIDE.

2. TRACKING ACTUAL PESTICIDE USE: WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE SPECIFIC SELF LIMITING FACTORS TO DISCOURAGE FARMER USE OF PESTICIDES ABOVE RECOMMENDED LEVELS; (A) REALITY OF PRODUCT PERFORMANCE - HIGHER DOSEAGE MAY BE WASTEFUL; (B) COST - MOST PESTICIDES ARE COSTLY, TREND IS TO APPLY LESS THAN RECOMMENDED DOSEAGE RATHER THAN MORE; (C) DAMAGE TO CROP - PRACTICAL LIMITING FACTOR PARTICULARLY FOR HERBICIDES, EXCESS APPLICATION MAY AFFECT YIELD OR DISRUPT CROPPING PROGRAM.

BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA MONITORS PESTICIDE USE PATTERNS FROM FIVE REGIONAL OFFICES IN CANADA: HALIFAX, MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG AND VANCOUVER. TRACKING MECHANISMS INCLUDE (A) NON BIAS SAMPLING PROGRAM OFFERING LABORATORY SAMPLING OF RANDOMLY SELECTED FOODS TO ESTABLISH COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL TOLERANCE LEVELS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES; (B) FIELD SAMPLING PROGRAM - SAMPLING OF FOOD OR FOOD PRODUCT BEFORE MARKETING. FIELD PERSONNEL HAVE AUTHORITY TO MEASURE FOR PESTICIDES IN THE FIELD AND DETAIN MARKETING OR DELAY HARVEST IF RESIDUES ARE LIKELY UNCLASSIFIED

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TO EXCEED TOLERANCE LEVEL.

HEALTH AND WELFARE HAS POWER TO PROSECUTE VIOLATORS OF RESIDUE TOLERANCE LEVELS BUT NO CHARGES LAID TO DATE ON FARMERS. TO DATE ALL INCIDENTS OF IMPROPER USE HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO OPERATOR ERRORS WITH NO INDICATION OF INTENTIONAL DEVIATION FROM RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS. HEALTH AND WELFARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PROVINCIAL EXTENSION PERSONNEL AND MEANS EXIST FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SUSPICIOUS AREAS TO WHICH FIELD SAMPLING EFFORTS ARE CONCENTRATED. EXAMPLES: ABNORMAL REGIONAL WEATHER PATTERN MAY AFFECT RESIDUE; INSECT OUTBREAKS; INDIVIDUAL FARMERS WHO PURCHASE LARGE AMOUNTS OF PESTICIDES.

3. PESTICIDES APPLIED TO SPECIFIC CROPS: COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF PESTICIDES APPLIED TO CANADIAN COMMODITIES LISTED IN REFTEL ARE AVAILABLE IN PUBLICATION SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE IN THE USE OF PESTICIDES PREPARED FOR THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS

PROGRAM, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION 1974 AND 1975.
PUBLICATION IS BEING UPDATED THIS YEAR AND 1977 VERSION IS
EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE FALL.
RICE (ORYZA SATIVA) LISTED AS CANADIAN CROP IN REFTTEL BUT IS
NOT GROWN IN CANADA. SOME WILDRICE (ZIGANIA AQUATICA) IS
HARVESTED. PLANT PRODUCTS DIVISION AGRICULTURE CANADA
CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF COMPILING COMPUTERIZED INDEX FOR
RETRIEVEABILITY EASE OF PESTICIDES REGISTERED FOR USE IN
CANADA BUT INFORMATION NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR ALL COMMODITIES.

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ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 AGR-10 ABF-01 SS-15

A-01 /051 W

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R 022115Z JUN 77

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4. IMPORT REQUIREMENTS: PRIOR TO MARCH 1977, CANADIAN
FARMERS COULD IMPORT U.S. PESTICIDES DUTY FREE FOR OWN USE.
REGULATIONS LIMITED THESE IMPORTS TO PESTICIDES WHICH WERE
EQUIVALENT TO PRODUCTS APPROVED FOR USE IN CANADA. PRODUCT
LABELLING INCLUDING DIRECTIONS, APPLICATION RATES, ETC.,
ON IMPORTED PESTICIDE RANGED IN SIMILARITY TO CANADIAN
LABELS BUT WERE NEVER IDENTICAL. IT WAS ALLEGED THAT SOME
PESTICIDES WHICH HAD NOT BEEN APPROVED FOR USE IN CANADA
WERE BEING IMPORTED.

IN MARCH 1977, REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT IMPORTS OF
PESTICIDES MEET ALL CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING LABEL-
LING AND THE DUTY FREE STATUS FOR FARMERS OWN USE WAS
DELETED. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, PESTICIDES, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA04611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770197-0371
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770698/aaaadhql.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a094186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EPA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 114232
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2304617
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION ON PESTICIDE USE AND RESIDUES
TAGS: EAGR, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a094186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009